

**FY 2000 Subsistence Fisheries Project Narratives
Project # 29**

Project Title: Documentation and Communication about Floating Weirs

Investigator Organizations: The Association of Village Council Presidents, Inc.

Geographic Area: Kuskokwim River Drainage.

Information Type: Stock Status/Trends

Issue Addressed: Opposition to the use of weirs for salmon population monitoring has been widespread and intense in the AVCP region for many years. Local residents have been concerned that weirs kill fish and obstruct local boat traffic. During the summer of 1999, the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge provided support for local residents to visit the ADF&G/Kuskokwim Native Association weir on the George River to become more familiar with weir operations and impacts. The weir visits helped to inform local residents about the value of the information being collected in improving fisheries management. At its Kwinhagak meeting in October 1999, the Yukon Delta Regional Council heard from Council member Bill McCann, as he described what he learned on the visit to the weir. In the 1999 Annual Convention, AVCP reversed its former opposition to the use of weirs, and the Village of Kwethluk has developed a cooperative weir project on the Kwethluk River. Additional documentation and communication on floating weirs will build broader community support in the lower Kuskokwim River communities. Potential participation includes residents of the villages of Akiak, Akiachak and Tulaksak (and any others interested).

Study Objectives:

1. To document and provide additional public information to Kuskokwim River Drainage villages about weir methods and impacts through education visits to weirs, and a public radio segment.
2. To promote understanding that weirs are an appropriate and necessary method form of salmon enumeration, and could be used in other tributaries to improve salmon management.

Project Description: From late-May through mid-July 1999, AVCP will organize several one-day trips for several individuals to two functioning floating weirs within the region to demonstrate operations and to give first-hand experience. It will be modeled after the 1999 USFWS (YDNWR) trips to the George River Weir. Mary Gregory from the YD Regional Council will participate and provide a public radio segment afterwards. AVCP will continue consultations with KYUK public television to send a videographer on a trip to record video footage for latter use in a public television segment. AVCP will coordinate this task, but cost arrangements for video documentation will be developed between the Office of Subsistence Management and KYUK directly.

Consultations Completed/Potential for Capacity Development: Depending on which weir is visited, the following agencies will have a part in the project: AVCP, ADF&G, Kuskokwim Native Association (KNA), and the USFWS. AVCP has discussed the video component with KYUK and received a positive response.

Deliverables/Products: AVCP will provide a brief project report at the end of the season, describing the participation in weir visits, and the results of the trips, with copies of any public radio and television segments that resulted.

Costs:

Annual Budget Summary	AVCP	Total
FY 2000	\$ 11.2 K	\$ 11.2 K

Estimated Costs: \$11,200. Of this, \$5,500 represents travel costs for participants in the weir visits, and \$5700 represents the AVCP Fisheries Biologist time to coordinate, implement, and report on the project.